

**Introduction**

**Project Theme:** Characterizing the formal semantics of deaccentuation.

**Claim:** Deaccentuation in biased question has a lexicalized meaning. Givenness.

**Theoretical Consequence:** To shed new light on the semantics of Givenness and the discussion of what determines the prosodic patterns of sentences: Accenting or Deaccenting.

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**Biased Questions**

- A Japanese negative sentence uttered with a rising intonation expresses a biased question.
- It has a function similar to English tag questions or negative bias questions (Romero and Han 2004, Nikitina 2002, Reese 2007).

1. a. Where is Mary?  
   b. hey ni i nai?  
   'She is in her room, isn't she?'/Isn't she in her room?'  
   c. hey ni i nai?  
   'She is in her room, isn't she?'

2. Context: B has just won a lottery.
   A: has never won a lottery in her life.
   A: takarakuji atara ureshiku na!
   lottery won COMP happy NEG
   'Aren't you happy, since you won a lottery?'
   (i) ↑ ureshiku na! (Rise with Accents)
   (ii) ↑ ureshiku na! (Rise with Deaccentuation)

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**Evidential Data**

**Rise with Deaccentuation** is not compatible with inference derived from indirect evidence, nor from hearsay evidence. Rise with Deaccentuation is licit only when the speaker has direct (sensory) evidence.

**Proposals**

1. **Proposal 1:** Define Givenness in terms of Publicity.
   - **Givenness in Information Structure:** The given material (discussed in Schwarzchild 1999, Ishihara 2003 among others) corresponds to the issue that is (or assumed to be) publicly committed.
   - Both the speaker and the addressee are committed to the issue, “Who came to the party?”

2. **Proposal 2:** Deaccentuation in biased question has a lexicalized meaning. Givenness.
   - (The felicity condition of p-nai? with deaccentuation: The speaker assumes that p is already Given.
   - (Evidence for p is publicly available.)
   - (Commitment Scale Public Commitment c (Genuine) Commitment i.e., if p is public commitment, it is entailed that p is private commitment, but not vice versa.)

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**Deaccenting, MAXIMIZE PRESUPPOSITION and Evidential Scale**

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**Observations**

1. **Negation** has to be present for deaccentuation to occur.
2. Givenness in Biased Questions: Publicly available evidence
   - (Rise with Accents)
   - Givenness in Biased Questions: Publicly available evidence
   - (Rise with Deaccentuation)

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**Propaganda Blocking**

1. a. Direct Evidence Context: Yao Ming is a huge guy. I've never seen his son, but, guessing from Yao Ming's height.
   - b. Yao Ming-no musuko te ooku nai!  
   'Yao Ming's son is big, isn't he?'
   (i) ↑ ooku nai! (RwA)
   (ii) ↑ ooku nai! (RwD)

2. a. Hearsay Evidence Context: The speaker has never been to Canada, but she heard that it's cold over there.
   - b. kanada te samuku nai  
   Canada T0P cold NEG
   'Canada is cold, isn't it?'
   (i) ↑ samuku nai! (RwA)
   (ii) ↑ samuku nai! (RwD)

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**Conclusions**

- We have documented and analyzed two intonational patterns in Japanese.
- 1. Rise with Accents: Bias, (Genuine) Evidence
- 2. Rise with Deaccentuation: Given, Direct Evidence
- Givenness can be defined uniformly in terms of publicity.
  - Givenness in Information Structure: Publicly committed issue
  - Givenness in Biased Questions: Publicly available evidence
  - (c.f. Barker ms., Ganlogson 2001)

- Deaccentuation in a biased question is grammaticalized.